

# INDIVIDUAL ACTION

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## BITTER, GLOOMY MAY DAY K.O.'D WORKERS

### *John's Corner*

Capitalist propagandists are invariably disseminating the belief that their system is most wonderful, most humane, and most efficient. The wonders of such a benevolent social order are great indeed.

For example, the United States Government has given its people the golden opportunity of paying exorbitant prices for butter. When the increased production of butter was about to cause a reduction in the price of this community, Uncle Sam purchased the butter and stored it in the warehouse where it was allowed to become rancid.

The price was not too low.

tals, and more than fifty miles of concrete cement. And the price of one destroyer equals eight thousand homes. Such horrifying facts epitomize the degeneration of the human species

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We detest the Stalinist Maximalists and their philosophy, but we have even less patience for professional red baiters, especially the ones who masquerade as radicals. The Red Baiters are diverting the minds of the people from the nearest menace and that is the Government of these United States. While the professional anti-Stalinists are decrying Russian oppression, the American politicians are infringing upon our liberties, are preparing for the Third World holocaust.

### More Repressions Planned

May Day 1953 epitomized the gloom of this era. The New York Police Force refused to grant the Stalinists a permit to march, and hence encroached upon our civil liberties. Negotiations between Chinese and American militarists to end the bloody Korean War were at a standstill. Workers faced more repressions. May 1, 1953, will go down as one of the darkest if not the darkest worker's holiday.

Although Other May Days were not glorious holidays either, at least some workers expressed their desire to make this world suitable for inhabitation. In fact, before the Stalinists desecrated the holiday, millions of workers marched along the streets singing revolutionary songs and carrying class conscious banners. Certainly this past May day was different from the ones twenty years ago.



## Individual Action

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## CENTRALISM, DECENTRALISM AND AUTHORITY

The writings of certain anarchists have often confused the decentralization of Government with the achievement of anarchy. For example, Kropotkin often confined his criticism to the evils of the centralized state; Alexander Berkman, in his pamphlets on the 1917 Russian Revolution, apparently regarded the centralism of the Bolsheviks as the main cause of the Revolution's failure. This type of thinking can have implications read into it which give rise to the attitude that all that is wrong with the structure of society is its centralized form. Herbert Read in his "Poetry and Anarchism" rejects national government, yet advocates local government — as if the difference between them is something more than the area over which they wield power. Another whose criticism of power structures is weakened by this confusion is Rudolph Rocker. In his "Nationalism and Culture" the alternative he stresses to the centralized state is that vague concept, used by Governmentalists and anarchists alike, of "Federalism". To the present writer, this attitude is misleading. Not only can it lead to ambiguity in our propaganda, but it may also produce grave errors of tactical judgment and action in revolutionary situations.

The anarchist regards the prime source of social evils as the principle of authority in human relations. Once this premise is accepted one cannot argue whether certain forms of Government — e.g. Medieval cities — are better than other — e.g. centralized states —. One can only argue whether they are more efficient in their purpose, according to the circumstances of their existence. (Most anarchists would prefer to exist under an inefficient or weak government than an efficient and consequently more powerful one. The choice, is regarded, however, as similar to a choice of having influenza or pneumonia). All authority began in a local fashion. The centralized authority of modern government is mere-

## Open Letter

Collector of Taxes,  
State of Arizona.

Dear Sir:

I earned \$1803.50 in 1952 by my day work among farmers. I never paid an income tax to the Federal Government, as per the enclosed statement which I handed out when I picketed the department of Internal Revenue on March 13th. I have also refused and do refuse to pay any income tax to the state of Arizona on the same general principles that the main function of government is to return evil for evil in courts and prisons and to use the violence of the militia which breaks Christ's commandment not to kill.

My especial grievance is the manner in which your legislature and Governor cooperates with the federal government in providing the Indians with liquor and seek to rob them of their resources under the guise of giving them freedom.

The Superintendent of Schools of the state is a narrow-minded bigot who restricts text books to those which praise our outworn and dying system.

I consider the sales tax which I cannot help but pay is sufficient enough of a contribution for my use of the highways. In fact I think, to use a slang phrase, you

## Attempting a Definition (For Dr. Morris Woodrow)

you cannot be taught to write a poem  
any more than you can be taught a sure-fire way to conceive a genius  
or every student would be a Shakespeare

a poem refuses to be born  
under pressure or at your leisure  
when other work calls and your bed is warm  
you will feel the pains of poetical labor

you cannot leave a poem half-done  
planning to finish it when you return  
it will not be there like unironed clothes  
or "the dishes" but forever gone.

a poem is a pear that drops  
plump from the top of a hickory tree  
and if everyone says that it couldn't happen  
there it is for all to see

a poem can walk upon its head  
and thumb its nose at gravity  
a poem refuses to put on  
any coat except its own

UnionOfEgoists.com  
the bonnet of a sonnet



There's a new trend in the labor movement. This trend may be appropriately called "The Four Cents An Hour Merry-Go-Round"

Last month the C.I.O. United Electrical Workers also obtained 4 cents in upstate New York with a promise of another 4 cents next year.

When the railroad workers won their 4 cents the editors of LA, being good, solid and respectable citizens, were alarmed by this threat to the Republic. We were about to urge our dear government to create more arbitration boards to prevent such revolutionary changes. But now we see that there was no cause for alarm. By the time the electrical workers got their wonderful 4 cents the railroad workers had already found that their glorious 4 cents had been rail-roaded away and wiped out! A decline in the cost of living index resulted in a 4 cent pay cut under an automatic cost of living

(Meanwhile labor leaders continue to draw their fabulous salaries out of the workers' pockets. Every time a picard obtains a raise for himself the amount runs into the thousands of dollars a year.

In order to really improve our condition we must use direct action. We must refuse to have anything to do with the N.L.R.B. and arbitration boards. These boards were created by the State to keep us under its control. By using direct action we can also pull the rug from under the piecarks. Once this is done we'll be in better shape to fight the masters and eventually seize the industries and build a better world.

**BRAVE NEW WORLD,**  
Aldous Huxley, Bantam  
Books, 226 p, \$ .35.

Many people have compared the sex life of the **Brave New World** to Free Love, as advocated by anarchists. This comparison, so far as we are concerned, is erroneous. In the first place, we believe that before a couple should indulge in the sexual act they ought to have sympathy for one another—**the citizens of the Brave New World**—

There are many radicals who are convinced that capitalism must go, but are very conventional and conservative when it comes to anything else. They are to be found mainly in the rank of the various leftist political parties and groups. These people should think a little deeper. They will then perhaps realize that it is the dead hand of tradition as manifested in our social customs that keeps an economic system going long after it has become rotten-ripe for change. Therefore, we should discard old habits of thought and defy the social conventions that are based on traditional errors. In order to do this we, as individuals, must assume personal responsibility. If we wish to revolutionize the world we must begin by revolutionizing ourselves. We must, first of all, make the one-man revolution. Only then can we really defy the social customs that tend to perpetuate the system. We must not only begin to think in a new revolutionary way, we must begin now to act accordingly.

It is not enough to be merely anti-capitalist. It is necessary for us to fight authoritarianism in all it's forms and in all fight.



## Felix says . . .

A few nights ago three young husbands managed to get away from home long enough to go to a tavern and hold a discussion on how best to fight their oppressors — their wives. All three admitted that they had tried violence, but it didn't do any permanent good. Many other methods of struggle were discussed as they nursed their beers for several hours. Finally, one of the trio — whom we shall call Mr. X — lamented that he should've never married an ignorant young girl. "Next time", he said, "I shall get an educated woman. An educated woman would be so understanding that she would let me do as I please." Another member of the trio, who had had experience with educated women, proceeded to disillusion him. But when the discussion ended, foolish Mr. X was still hopeful that somewhere on this earth there must be a woman so educated that she would not try to either enslave him or nag him to death.

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Some time ago (we forget the date) Marshal Tito announced that his government would be decentralized so that the State way just as

## Education and Miseducation

The witch-hunt against teachers who espouse views that are not in conformity with the status quo impels us to analyze the school system.

In so doing, we cannot reach any conclusion except that the schools are institutions which mold the minds of youngsters and frustrate what little creativity they may possess. Thus we can not sympathize with the school teachers. On the other hand we consider them perhaps the most pernicious prostitutes who serve the ruling class.

The teachers perform many reprehensible deeds. But none of their tasks is as vicious as that of inculcating patriotism into youngsters. Usually when a child enters school he is immediately taught that his country is the best, the most humane, the most noble and the most productive one in the world. Of course, he is constrained to pledge allegiance to the flag each morning, and sing the Star Spangled Banner, possibly the poorest song ever written.

The youngsters are also taught to deify military "heroes." Such professional killers as Washington, Grant, Sherman, and MacArthur are glorified by the teachers, and the children are admonished to fol-

ences among students. They impose the same schedule on the children regardless of their learning capacity. And so the child who is slow — but not necessarily devoid of intelligence — is made to feel guilty because he cannot maintain the same pace as other pupils. It is probable that the teachers give him low grades and cite him as a poor example in front of his friends. This produces more frustration than all the oedipus complexes put together.

Besides a system of grades does not induce the child to comprehend the subjects despite the statements of "prominent" educators. Conversely, children today are not interested in the course they are taking, unless they have an aptitude for it, and are unduly emphasizing marks. For example, a student who has no interest in geometry strives merely to pass the subject and in a few years forgets every — or almost every — proposition that he was taught. If, on the other hand, a teacher imparted a desire in him to learn the subject and allowed him to study it at his leisure, he might remember geometry and be able to apply it in his life's work.

And the teachers invariably crush creativity. Lately, a dear friend of ours was telling us that before her children were sent to school, they did excellent creative work in drawing. But as

appalling factors into consideration?

Of course, we realize that the schools are servants of big business and the Government. Year after year, the colleges graduate engineers and publicity men who do the dirty work for the large corporations. And the colleges produce journalists and lawyers whose function it is to delude the public into supporting a system that enables the few to exploit the many. We, unlike other radicals, do not expect a reform within the present school system. Nor would we advocate school reforms. We would, though, hope that some teachers would have the courage of Francisco Ferrer and establish libertairian centers similar to the modern school which the Great Spanish Anarchist instituted during the early 1900.

But until some teachers display such courage, we will condemn the profession. Even though many of them may claim to be radicals, they are performing invaluable services for the ruling powers — and the fact that they are permitted to teach creates illusions to the effect that the schools are free and impartial institutions. We have nothing but contempt for people who show a willingness to prostitute their talents — and the teachers are prostituting themselves by selling their birth-right